

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS STATE 031522

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EMIN, ETRD, IN

SUBJECT: MICA: FOLLOW-UP TO JANUARY 1975 INDIA-US JOINT

REF:

1. AGREED MINUTES OF JAN 20-21, 1975 INDIA-US JOINT COMMISSION MEETING CONTAIN FOLLOWING ON MICA: QUOTE. IN ORDER TO AVOID DISRUPTION OF INDIAN MICA SALES, THE US DELEGATION AGREED TO WORK WITH THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT IN ATTEMPTING TO IMPROVE THE PRECONSULTATION MECHANISMS WITH REGARD TO SALES OF MICA FROM US STRATEGIC STOCKPILES. THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO COOPERATE IN ENSURING SATISFACTORY QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF INDIAN MICA EXPORTS TO THE US. END QUOTE.

2. ALTHOUGH DEPARTMENT BELIEVES CURRENT STOCKPILE DISPOSAL CONSULTATION PROCEDURES SATISFACTORY, WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO CONSIDER ANY SUGGESTIONS GOI MIGHT HAVE FOR POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENT. UNDER CURRENT PROCEDURES DEPARTMENT TAKES INITIATIVE ANNUALLY IN CONSULTING WITH GOI EMBASSY PROGRAM FOR COMING FISCAL YEAR. GOI EMBASSY THEN REQUESTED UNCLASSIFIED

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SUBMIT ANY COMMENTS ON PROPOSED DISPOSAL PROGRAM WITHIN

TEN WORKING DAYS. IN ADDITION, GOI IS, OF COURSE, FREE TO REQUEST CONSULTATIONS AT ANY TIME CONCERNING ANY ASPECT OF

MICA DISPOSAL PROGRAM.

3. RE QUALITY AND AVAILABILITY OF INDIAN MICA EXPORTS TO US, WHILE AVAILABILITY APPEARS TO HAVE IMPROVED IN RECENT MONTHS, DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO RECEIVE COMPLAINTS FROM US MICA IMPORTERS CONCERNING POOR QUALITY, PARTICULARLY OF LOWER GRADES WHICH MAKE UP BULK OF US MICA PURCHASES FROM INDIA (E.G., GRADES SIX-THIRDS AND SIX-THIRD SPOTTED ORDINARY). THEY HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER RUMORS THAT GOI MAY RAISE PRICE OF MICA SCRAP AND EXPORT DUTY ON MICA SCRAP TO SUCH A LEVEL AS TO PRICE THIS MATERIAL OUT OF REACH OF US IMPORTERS.

4. IN DISCUSSING MICA WITH GOI, EMBASSY SHOULD INQUIRE INTO ANY PLANS TO IMPROVE QUALITY CONTROL AND GRADING OF MICA EXPORTS. INGERSOLL

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